

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: MAY 27 PRESS ROUNDUP

1. MURREY MARDER OF WASHINGTON POST SAID PRESIDENT CARTER AT NEWS CONFERENCE "GUARDEDLY DISCLOSED" KEY ELEMENTS OF INTENDED AMERICAN-SOVIET COMPROMISE ON PARTIAL NUCLEAR ARMS ACCORD. CARTER, HE SAID, ACKNOWLEDGED "SOME CONSTRAINTS" ON DEVELOPING CRUISE MISSILES AND ON SOVIET BACKFIRE BOMBER. MARDER SAID PRESIDENT REVEALED THAT U.S. SEEKS SOME OFFSETTING LIMITATIONS ON VERY HEAVY SOVIET MISSILES. REPORTING ON SECRETARY VANCE'S "UNUSUAL" TWO-HOUR CLOSED MEETING WITH SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ARMS CONTROL, MARDER SAID SENATOR JACKSON STATED THAT BREAKTHROUGH AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED WITH CARTER ADMINISTRATION ON SHARING INFORMATION ABOUT SALT. JACKSON SAID MEETING "RATHER HISTORIC" IN THAT BOTH REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP TOOK PART OF WEDNESDAY'S HEARING "WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO BE COURSE OF ACTION WE WILL BE FOLLOWING." MARDER SAID "PARTICIPANTS DECLINED TO DISCUSS ANY DETAILS OF NEGOTIATIONS WHICH MEMBERS OF SENATE NOW HOPE TO INFLUENCE AS SECRET BARGAINING UNCLASSIFIED

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PROCEEDS WITH SOVIET UNION." SENATOR SPARKMAN, AFTER HEARING VANCE, SAID "THERE WAS BIT OF HORSE-TRADING IN GENEVA AND STAGE HAS BEEN SET FOR FURTHER HORSE-TRADING."

2. HEADLINE IN MAY 26 WASHINGTON STAR SAID "CARTER: NO SALT DEAL ON LIMITING CRUISE." HENRY S. BRADSHAW SAID SINCE VANCE-GROMYKO MEETING IN GENEVA THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS "FROM PENTAGON" THAT SECRETARY PROPOSED RESTRICTIONS ON

CRUISE MISSILES. "SOME REPORTS," ACCORDING TO BRADSHER, "SAID U.S. WAS WILLING TO HALT DEVELOPMENT OF CRUISE MISSILES, BUT OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT PROPOSAL ONLY INVOLVED RESTRICTING DEPLOYMENT WHILE DEVELOPMENT GOES AHEAD. OFFICIAL SPOKESMEN HAVE REFUSED TO COMMENT ON REPORTS, BUT IT IS KNOWN THAT JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF HAVE BEEN DISTURBED ABOUT U.S. POSITION TAKEN IN GENEVA. WHEN REPORTERS GATHERED AROUND CARTER AT END OF TODAY'S NEWS CONFERENCE, ONE ASKED HIM WHETHER U.S. HAD AGREED ON MORATORIUM ON CRUISE MISSILES. 'NO,' CARTER REPLIED WITHOUT ELABORATION."

3. ROBERT KEATLEY OF WALL STREET JOURNAL SAID IN REMARKS AFTER HIS NEWS CONFERENCE, PRESIDENT CARTER DENIED REPORTS HE HAS OFFERED CRUISE MISSILE MORATORIUM IN EFFORT TO GET TREATY WITH SOVIETS. "U.S. CONSERVATIVES STAUNCHLY OPPOSE SUCH MOVE," SAID KEATLEY. JOURNAL CORRESPONDENT SAID CARTER, AT NEWS CONFERENCE, "SOUNDED ENCOURAGED ABOUT LAST WEEK'S GENEVA TALKS."

4. STEPHEN CHAPMAN, WRITING IN MAY 28 NEW REPUBLIC, SAID B-1 BOMBER'S STORY "IS REMINISCENT OF WHAT CATERPILLAR SAID OF ALICE'S POEM: 'IT IS WRONG FROM BEGINNING TO END.'" CHAPMAN SAID: "LAST DITCH DEFENSE OF B-1 IS THAT IT CAN BE USED AS 'BARGAINING CHIP' IN SALT TWO TALKS. BUT IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE SOVIETS GIVING UP ANYTHING IN EXCHANGE FOR PLANE WITH ALL LIMITATIONS OF B-1.... JIMMY CARTER CHOSE AS HIS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MAN WHO FAVORS B-1.... PRESIDENT COULD FIND NO BETTER OPPORTUNITY THAN UNCLASSIFIED

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B-1 TO SHOW THAT HE, NOT GENERALS IN PENTAGON, IS IN CHARGE OF HIS ADMINISTRATION'S POLICIES ON NATIONAL DEFENSE. HE SHOULD KILL IT OFF ONCE AND FOR ALL."

5. ACDA DEPUTY DIRECTOR SPURGEON KEENY, JR. APPEARING BEFORE SUBCOMMITTEE OF HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE, SAID "MANY NATIONS, IF SUFFICIENTLY DETERMINED TO DO SO, COULD ACQUIRE OR FABRICATE NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES WITH OR WITHOUT OUR HELP." UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL QUOTED KEENY AS SAYING IT WAS "ESSENTIAL NOT TO UNDERRATE VALUE OF TREATY ON NONPROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS -- WHICH IS MOST BASIC INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT IN THIS FIELD -- OR OF INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS, AND NOT TO TAKE ACTIONS THAT COULD UNDERMINE THESE EXISTING PROTECTIONS." KEENY, ACCORDING TO UPI, NOTED CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN ABOUT NUCLEAR EXPORTS, BUT SAID THAT REALLY IS ONLY ONE FACET OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION PROBLEMS. VANCE

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